

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Region 1 (North)

Bear Conflict Management

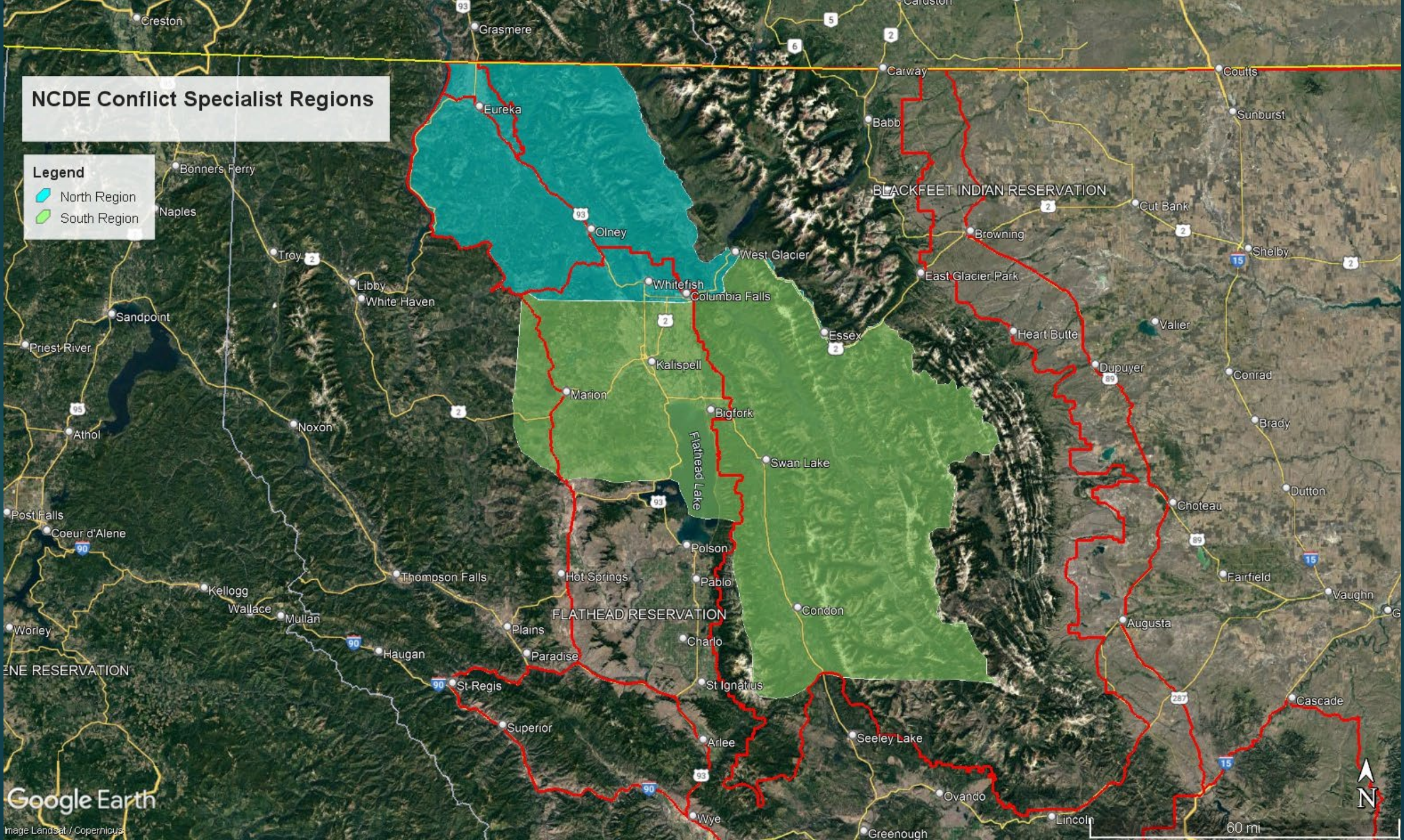
Justine Vallieres



NCDE Conflict Specialist Regions

Legend

- North Region
- South Region

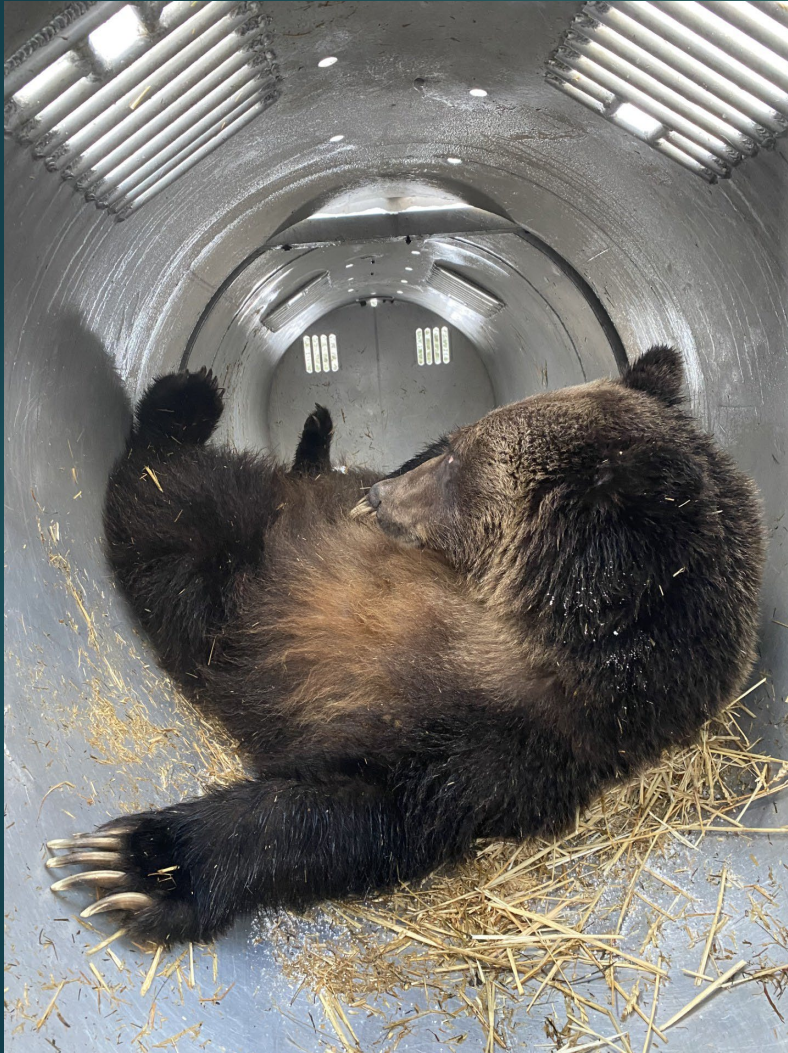


North Grizzly Bear Conflict Calls

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	TOTALS
Info/ other	8	8	4	4	3	2	6	9	44
Conflict	1	3	1	4	2	9	13	11	44
Response	1	2	1	2	2	3	12	10	33
Captures		1		1		1	1	6	10
Removals								1	1
Mortalities		2		1					3

- **Conflicts down from last year and previous years**
 - **44 conflict calls and 33 responses 2024 vs 96 total conflict calls, 65 responses 2023**
 - **To clarify: A response is counted as the initial response to conflict site, not all the other times we may have to revisit**
- **17 electric fences installed Continue to see an increase in electric fences and/or willingness to install them**
- **Set few traps, focusing on mitigating conflicts with preventative tools i.e. electric fence to prevent future conflicts.**
- **18 talks given and 6 educational events**
- **1 WHART response**

Management



- 3 cubs of the year – hanging around homes without mom- Eureka
- 1 new sub-adult male- habituated to people/being around homes Essex
- 1 new adult male- pig depredation Columbia Falls
- 1 new adult female- habituated to people/being around homes Essex
- Known female with 2 cubs of the year- chicken coops Columbia Falls
- Known female with 2 cubs of the year-breaking into garages Trego



South Grizzly Bear Conflict Calls

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	TOTALS
Info/ other	2	7	34	13	7	10	6	6	3	88
Conflict		4	29	24	10	13	32	44	3	159
Response		1	15	8	3	2	15	18	2	64
Captures		3	3	1	2	3	5	3		20
Removals							1	1		2
Mortalities				1						1

- Conflicts up from last year and previous years
- 54 loaned electric fences, 4 permanent
- Grain bin conflicts up from previous years
- Secured 71 grain bins with electrified pallets and/or unwelcome mats in Lower Valley

Trend/Augmentation Trapping



Bushnell M CORE_CAM 81F 27C 07-24-2024 19:16:49

North:

- 1 new adult male (3x)
- 1 new adult female- collared for trend
- 1 known adult female- current trend female
- 1 yearling
- 1 known adult male- previously captured for augmentation

South:

- 2 new adult females-collared for trend

Mortalities



- **7 total**
 - 4 females, 3 males
- **3 removed for management**
 - 2 females, 1 male
- **1 under investigation**
 - 1 female
- **2 shot in self defense**
 - 1 female, 1 male
- **Mistaken ID**
 - 1 male

Our Partners

- **Chrissy Lambert Non-lethal Specialist USDA Wildlife Services- Working closely with local 4H and building electric fences**
- **Ted North USDA Wildlife Services- livestock depredations**
- **Rory Trimbo USFWS- bear relocations and assisting with work ups and electric fence projects**
- **Ryan Wilbur People and Carnivores - education/trainings, Columbia Falls ordinance, and bear smart communities**
- **Defenders of Wildlife cost-share program**
- **Swan Valley Bear Resources- providing education, loans out bear resistant containers and electric fence**



Thank you!

